

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 5, 2003. Claims 2-9 and 16 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form, and Claims 1, 10-15, and 17-19 were rejected as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,482,381 (Fujimoto) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,118,570 (Kanai et al.).

In response to the previous Office Action, independent claim 1 has been amended to add "crosstalk preventing means" as an element. Support for this amendment may be found in the Specification at least on pages 14, line 24 and 19, line 5, as well as in figures 6 and 8, wherein a slit 3 is disclosed as being located between the first optical means 2 and the imaging means 4, for the purpose of preventing crosstalk. Favorable consideration of the allowability of the claims is respectfully requested.

As amended, the color image reading apparatus of Claim 1 includes light-receiving means formed by a plurality of line sensors, imaging means for providing a light beam image of an object, color-separation means, inserted in a first optical path between the imaging means and light-receiving means, for color-separating the scanning light beam into a plurality of color light beams, first optical means, inserted in a second optical path between the object and said imaging means, for temporarily imaging the object in a sub-scanning direction in said second optical path, where the first optical means have a power in the sub-scanning direction, and crosstalk preventing means, inserted in the path between the first optical means and the imaging means, used for preventing crosstalk of color information in the sub-scanning direction perpendicular to the main scanning direction.

With respect to the amendments made to claim 1, Fujimoto teaches the use of a slit 104, which has an opening elongated in the main scanning direction, i.e., in a direction of pixel alignment in line sensors, to prevent optical fluxes from regions greatly apart from

an image reading region on the original plane from entering a projection optical system. However, Fujimoto does not disclose a first optical means between the plane of an original 1 and the slit 104. Since Fujimoto lacks a first optical means disposed in that location, it can not teach or suggest that a slit used for preventing crosstalk can be located between the first optical means and imaging means. Additionally, Kanai et al. does not disclose the use of a slit to prevent crosstalk from other regions of the image.

Therefore Fujimoto and Kanai et al. either alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest the disposition of a slit 3 in the optical path between a first optical feature and imaging means as suggested by the configuration of the present invention.

For at least these reasons, Applicants believe that amended independent Claim 1 and all the claims that depend therefrom, are patentably distinct over the cited prior art.

The other rejected claims in this application are each dependent from independent claim 1 discussed above and are therefore believed to be patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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